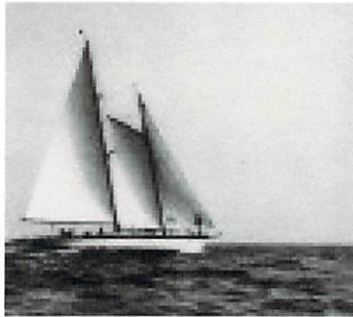


# Sailing through life on the Mya

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With its fore and aft sails and schooner rig, the 50-foot tall “Mya” cuts a graceful figure as it slices through salt water. The Mya, whose name is derived from the scientific name for a soft shell clam native to Duxbury, is now in its seventh decade of regular use as a sailboat.

Built in Duxbury over the winter of 1939 and into 1940, the schooner’s construction may have been a welcome work project in the years of the Great Depression and prior to the country’s entry into World War II. The boat’s launch came about two years after its construction began. Boat design firm Howland and Hunt of Concordia came up with the blueprint that would become the Mya. The firm had offices on Boston’s State Street, according to an article posted in [maineboats.com](http://maineboats.com).



The winds propel the sailing schooner, Mya, across the ocean.  
Courtesy photo



Bill Taylor, top row left, and Mike Linde, top row second from left, helped build the Mya.

A black and white photograph taken of those who built the Mya came to light recently, the sons of two of its builders stopping by the Clipper office. In the near 80-year-old photo, 12 men and one woman look forward, smiling. Their faces portray confidence, camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment. Included among the group photo are Bill Taylor, Mike Linde, Patty Tripp, Tom Parker, Howie Blanchard, Lloyd Sprague and Ross Chandler.



Don McKeag; Skip Taylor, son of Bill Taylor; Long Point Marine, Inc. president Dwight Smith, where the Mya was built; and Don Linde, son of Mike Linde.

The connections between two sons of the Mya’s builders and the son of its last owner combined to inspire a meeting and luncheon on Cape Cod. There, on the Kennedy family compound in Hyannis Port recently, Skip Taylor and Don Linde, the sons of Mya builders Bill Taylor and Mike Linde, respectively, and Dwight Smith, owner of Long Point Marine boatyard and the site of the Mya’s construction, met with Ted Kennedy

Jr., the son of the late senator, Edward M. “Ted” Kennedy. The younger Kennedy took ownership of the Mya after his father’s death in 2009. Ted Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Kiki, graciously welcomed the Duxbury contingent to the Kennedy homestead. Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Kiki, live in Connecticut, where he is a state senator.

Smith, Taylor, Linde and friend Don McKeag reviewed the history of the Mya during their visit to the newspaper’s office at 4 Duck Hill Road. Smith has been a friend of the other men since the 1950s, he said.

“Here we are, 77 years later,” said Don Linde, referring to his father’s work 70-plus years earlier building the Mya. The quartet and a guest shared memories of Duxbury’s earlier years and its sailing vessel and shipbuilding heritage. What began in Duxbury in 1939 is remembered again in 2017. Dr. Hermon Carey Bumpus Jr, a Duxbury resident, biologist and later, president of Tufts, commissioned the boat’s building. Bumpus and his wife Helen sailed for many years aboard the Mya, according to an exhibit held several years ago at the Helen Bumpus art gallery in Duxbury. The art gallery is contained within the Duxbury Free Library. The exhibit was curated and organized by Bumpus’s granddaughters, Jane Bumpus Nielsen of Marblehead and Christina Bumpus Wilson of Portland, Oregon, in 2014. The women’s uncle, Dr. Frank T. Bumpus of Cold Spring, New York, sailed the Mya, too.

Eventually, the Mya would have new owners, including Mathew Stackpole of West Tisbury, Martha’s Vineyard, who sold the Mya to Ted Kennedy Sr. in 1987, notes the Vineyard Gazette. Senator Kennedy enjoyed sailing the Mya for as long as possible. His sailing legacy, and that of the Mya’s, will continue, under the senator’s son’s helmsmanship.